

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 196896

EXDIS

FOL REPEAT SECTO 08170 ACTION MANAMA DOHA ABUDHABI MUSCAT
SANA KUWAIT RABAT ALGIERS TUNIS TEHRAN NATO PARIS BONN
USUN TOKYO INFO BAGHDAD TRIPOLI LONDON MOSCOW CAIRO BEIRUT
DAMASCUS AMMAN JIDDA TEL AVIV SECSTATE DTD 13 AUG.

QUOTE

S E C R E T SECTO 08170

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP

FOR AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES FROM THE SECRETARY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 196896

1. ACTION ADDRESSEES MAY MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN
BRIEFING THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS ON MY JUST-COMPLETED
TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST; USUN MAY BRIEF SYG OR HIS
REPRESENTATIVE, AND USNATO MAY BRIEF NAC.

1. THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE TRIP WAS TO SET IN
MOTION A MORE ACTIVE AND DETAILED PHASE OF PREPARATION
FOR RECONVENING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE UNDE CIRCUMSTANCES

THAT WOULD GIVE IT A REASONABLE CHANGE OF SUCCESS.

2. HAVING HEARD THE VIEWS OF THE MIDDLE EAST LEADERS CONCERNED DURING THEIR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I WAS IN A POSITION TO MAKE CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS DESIGNED TO BEGIN BRIDGING THE DIFFERENCES ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES INVOLVED IN A SETTLEMENT AS WELL AS THE PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. WITH REGARD TO SUBSTANCE, I STRESSED THAT OUR POSITIONS ON THE CORE ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL AND BOUNDARIES, THE NATURE OF PEACE, AND THE PALESTINIANS HAD NOT CHANGED. THEY REMAINED AS THEY HAD BEEN ENUNCIATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESS STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT CARTER. I MADE SUGGESTION TO ALL THE PARTIES ABOUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES THEY MIGHT WORK TOWARD AND A FRAMEWORK AND BASIS FOR THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS.

I FOUND AGREEMENT IN SOME AREAS AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY IN OTHERS, BUT IN A NUMBER OF AREAS THERE REMAIN WIDE GAPS. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE THE CONCLUSION OF PEACE TREATIES CONSTITUTING A FINAL AND COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, AND THAT THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. SOME PROGRESS WAS ALSO MADE TOWARD NARROWING DIFFERENCES WITH RESPECT TO THE NATURE OF PEACE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES ON THE OTHER CORE ISSUES OF WITHDRAWAL AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 196896

BORDERS, AND THE NATURE OF A PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT.

4. I ALSO DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH WITH ALL THE PARTIES THE PROBLEM ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. I REVIEWED THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES TO A SEPARATE PLO DELEGATION--A SOLUTION I SAID WAS NOT PRACTICABLE, GIVEN THE STRONG VIEW OF THE ISRAELIS AND THE FACT THAT ALL ORIGINAL PARTIES TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, INCLUDING ISRAEL, MUST AGREE TO ANY ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS. I SAID THE INCLUSION OF THE PALESTINIANS IN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION OR IN A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION SEEMED THE MOST REALISTIC ALTERNATIVES. OF THE TWO, THE UNIFIED DELEGATION SEEMED MOST LIKELY TO BE FEASIBLE, THOUGH ISRAEL CONTINUED TO OPPOSE IT, HOLDING TO ITS POSITION THAT THE ISSUES SHOULD BE SOLVED BY HAVING NON-PLO PALESTINIANS INCLUDED IN A JORDANIAN DELEGATION. THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARABS. AT THE END OF THE TRIP I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE MOVING TOWARD A CONSENSUS ACCEPTING THE UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION CONCEPT. THOUGH EGYPT CONTINUED TO BE SKEPTICAL. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A COMMON ARAB STAND ON THIS ISSUE.

5. THERE WAS ALSO A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION ABOUT CREATING CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE US COULD ESTABLISH DIRECT

9**8:8-) :9,5-:5 285# 5#3 0)9. ALL THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS
URGED UTO THIS . WE REITERATED OUR POSITION THAT IT
WAS OUT OF THE QUESTON UNLESS THE PLO ACCEPTED UNSC
RESOLUTION 242 AND THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. WE
DISCUSSED WITH THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THE PLO MIGHT ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION AND THE PRINCIPLE
OF THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREAS (WHICH WOULD BE
CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO INCLUDE ISRAEL) TO EXIST, WHILE
STATING IS RESERVATIONS ON THE WAY IN WHICH RESOLUTION
242 DEALT WITH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION (AS A REFUGEE
QUESTION ONLY). SOME OF THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS KEPT IN TOUCH
WITH THE PLO DURING THE PERIOD OF MY TRIP AND ATTEMPTED
TO WORK OUT A SATISNACTORY STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE. IT
IS IMPORTANT THAT SUCH A STATEMENT BE CLEAR AND UNAMBIGU-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 196896

OUSN AND THAT IT NOT BE NEGATED BY OTHER STATEMENTS-FOR
EXAMPLE, REAFFIRMING THE VALIDITY OF THE PALESTINE NATIONAL
CHARTER, WHICH DENIES THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST.

6. THE ISRAELIS ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST US CONTACT WITH
THE PLO EVEN IF IT SHOULD ACCEPT RESOLUTION 242. WE
TOLD THEM, HOWEVER, THAT WE INTEND TO TAKE THIS STEP IF
THE PLO CHANGES ITS POLICY IN THIS RESPECT

7. FROM TIME TO TIME THE SUGGESTION AROSE OF MODIFYING
RESOLUTION 242 TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CHANGE IN THE STATUS
OF THE PALESTINIANS, BUT I SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT THIS
WAS NOT PRACTICAL, AND THAT THE US OPPOSED ANY ATTEMPT
TO AMEND RESOLUTION 242 AND WOULD VOTE AGAINST SUCH A
MOVE.

8. THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE POSS-
IBILITY OF FURTER EXCHANGES AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS
LEVEL IN NEW YORK PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IN THE
END, ALL PARTIES AGREED THEY WOULD SEND FOREIGN MINISTERS
OR EQUIVALENT LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES TO NEW YORK AT THE
BEGINNING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,SO THAT I MAY CONTINUE
THROUGH INTENSIVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH OF THEM
TO BUILD ON THE TALKS HELD DURING MY TRIP AND CARRY
FORWARD THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE GROUNDWORK FOR
GENEVA. I STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL THE GOVERNMENTS
BEING PREPARED AT THAT TIME TO BE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED
ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, TO MAKE POSSIBLE CONCRETE
PROGRESS.

9. ISRAEL HAS EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR DEFERRING
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES UNTIL GENEVA, WHEREAS THE ARAB GOVERN-
MENTS WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGREEMENT REACHED ON THE SUBSTANA
TIVE ISSUES AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE BEFORE GENEVA. OUR
VIEW IS THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO NARROW
DIFFERENCES TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BEFORE GENEVA, SO
THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS, AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 196896

WE INTEND TO WORK IN THAT DIRECTION WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT SOME DIFFERENCES CAN ONLY BE FINALLY RESOLVED AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

10. DURING MY TALKS IN ISRAEL I EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE US OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE ISRAELIS ARE IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR POSITION BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

11. IN SUMMARY, ON THE QUESTION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, THE TRIP HAS ACHIEVED SOME PROGRESS. ALL THE PARTIES CONTINUE TO WANT A GENEVA CONFERENCE. THEY HAVE DEFINED THEIR POSITIONS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER BEFORE; EACH PARTY UNDERSTANDS BETTER THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHERS AND SHOWS A WILLINGNESS TO EXAMINE THEM. OUR TALKS IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH PROMISE, FOR THESE REASONS, TO BE MORE PRODUCTIVE. I CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT WE WILL SEE A CONFERENCE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO PRESS ITS EFFORTS WITH THE PARTIES DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH REMAIN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THE SOVIETS, AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AS OUR EFFORTS GO FORWARD.

12. LEBANON. I TALKED WITH ALL THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THE LEBANESE INTEND TO SEND A FORCE OF THEIR OWN INTO THE AREA AS SOON AS IT CAN BE ORGANIZED, BUT THEY WERE NOT CERTAIN HOW LONG THIS WOULD TAKE. WE REITERATED TO THEM THAT WE HOPED AND INTENDED TO BE ABLE TO HELP EQUIP SUCH A FORCE, AND THAT WE HOPED OTHERS WOULD ALSO HELP IN THIS RESPECT. THE ISRAELIS AGREE ON THE NEED FOR THE LEBANESE TO PUT THEIR OWN FORCE INTO THE SOUTH, BUT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE CHRISTIAN VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH. WE TOLD THEM OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION OF THE VILLAGES WAS NOT SO ALARMING AS THEIRS, AND URGED THEM TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. IN DAMASCUS, WE STRESSED TO THE SYRIANS THE IMPORTANCE OF ALL FACTIONS OBSERVING THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 196896

CEASEFIRE IN THE SOUTH AND OF PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE TERMS OF THE SHTAURA AGREEMENT.

13. FOR MOSCOW: I WILL BE BRIEFING DOBRYNIN DURING THIS COMING WEEK. WHEN I DO SO, I WILL LET YOU KNOW SO YOU CAN FOLLOW THROUGH IN PARALLEL IN MOSCOW.

14. FOR BAGHDAD AND TRIPOLI: IF YOU THINK IT USEFUL, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING TO BRIEF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS.

VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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